the House, each one of us feels that India should attain a stage of self-sufficiency in steel. We will certainly export finished products of steel but at the present moment, our own requirement of steel is there. We do not have even capacity to produce steel by our own raw material, that is iron ore. The result is that the iron ore deposits which are there, if you do not export them and find a maket, then there will be a glur and a crisis of both economic and social nature in those parts of India. Keeping in view this position, we have no other option but to export iron ore to the extent possible.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Madam, it is a very relevant question raised by my hon. friend and my supplementary arises out of it. It cannot be a mere wishful thinking of the two dynamic Ministers in the Commerce Ministry that instead of exporting the raw materials, they should be exporting the finished products. May I know from the Minister, if his Ministry can reply to this, what concrete steps have they taken when they find that the export of iron ore is difficult? Why don't they convert iron ore into finished goods specially sponge iron? It is very easy to convert it into sponge iron with any amount of gas which is available in in India and there is a tremendous demand for sponge all over the world. (*Interruption*)...

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: But then they have to compete with the world market.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Yes, that is what I am saying. No one is better placed than India today. In Maharashtra, close to Goa, if you have a sponge making plant, use Goa iron ore and use the Bombay High gas, it will be one of the cheapest sponge we will be making. In that direction, have they at least applied their mind, I mean the two dynamic Commerce Ministers?

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI: Madam, I can anly inform the dynamic Member, Shri N. K. P. Salve that he handled very efficiently the Steel Ministry and he knows that this aspect can only be taken up by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Steel. I am only for trade. Whatever they produce, I will find a better market for them.

Production of low priced blended Fabrics

*366. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the approved schemes for the production of low priced blended fabrics for the benefit of the weaker sections;

(b) whether NTC is losing on these fabrics;

(c) whether NTC is getting Polyester Filament Yarn and Polyester Staple Fibre at cheaper rates for these schemes, i.e by way of low rate of excise on these raw materials; if so, what is the benefit per kg. of PFY and PSF to NTC;

(d) whether Government provide loans to NTC at low interest rate to contain mounting losses of the Corporation; and

(e) what is the loss incurred by the the Gujarat subsidary of NTC during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The approved schemes for the production of low priced blended fabrics are Polyester Cotton Controlled Cloth Scheme, 'Sulabh' Blended Fabrics Scheme, 'Sowbhagya' Nylon Filament Cotton Blended Sarees Scheme, and 'Susman' Polyester

Fibre|Filament Blended Cloth Scheme Whereas the last mentioned Scheme is under implementation in the Handloom Sector, NTC is implementing the first mentioned three Schemes.

((b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Polyester Filament Yarn is not used in the fabrics produced by NTC under the approved Schemes for production of low priced blended fabrics. However, the excise duty benefit in respect of polyester staple fibre used under the approved schemes is Rs. 1.66 per kg.

(d) NTC, since inception has been incurring cash losses which are reimbused in the form of interest bearing loans subject to resource availability. The Government have remitted interest payable on these loans for the period up to and including the year 1987-88 because of absence of internal generation of resources for repaying loans and interest.

(e) The net loss of NTC (Gujarat) Ltd., during last three years is given below:—

	(*Rs. in crores*)
1985-86 (audited) . . .	17.51
1986-87 (audited) . . .	26.64
1987-88 (provisional) . .	34.07

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Madam Deputy Chairrman, in part (e) of the answer, the net loss of NTC ((Gujarat) Ltd., has been shown as double, that is from Rs. 17.51 crores in 1985-86, it has gone up to Rs. 34.07 crores in 187-88. I would not like to go into details because there is hardly a minute left for Question Hour to be over. I would say, have the Minister considered whether the labour participation should be immediately restored in a statutory form to cut down the loss.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA. Madam, participation of labour in management is one of the accepted policies of the National Textile Corporation as well as of the Government of India. There are various ways in which this policy could be implemented. For the last year or two we have taken up this. We are having joint machinery at the plant level. Even at higher levels we have labour participation. We have them in the Board of Directors also. I can assure the House through you that we will pursue this policy because without the wholehearted involvement of labour in production, no improvement can be made either in the NTC or in any other organization.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Decline in imports from Japan and other South East Asian countries

*363. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it s a fact that India's imports from Japan and other South East Asian countries are falling during the last one year due to high yen-induced prices of Japanese products;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Japanese delegation have met the Indian Minister of State for Commerce in Japan recently to discuss the situation; and

(d) if so, what are the result of the discussions he had with the Japanese delegation?